

Lee Lung Sing Market
600 South Meyer Avenue
Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)
Tucson
Pima County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-25

HABS,
ARIZ,
10-TUCSO,
30/25-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWING

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

BARRIO LIBRE (Barrio Histórico)

LEE LUNG SING MARKET
600 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE

HABS No. AZ-73-25

Location: 600 S. Meyer Ave., Tucson, Pima County, Arizona.

USGS Tucson Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 12.502680 .3563970

Present Owners: Suey and Lillian Gee.

Present Occupant: Jerry's Lee Ho Market.

Present Use: Residential/commercial.

Significance: This building at the corner of S. Meyer Avenue and W. 17th Street has been a Chinese grocery, operated by the same family, since 1900. Remodeled several times, it was originally an adobe building about half of its present size. Currently the largest grocery store in the area, it is also the most dominant building on the block because of its large size and non-traditional architectural style.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1900.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: See chain of title below.

Block 242, Lot 14.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1898 | Deed, August 27, 1898, recorded in Volume 29, page 339. Rafaela Vasquez to Andres and Guadalupe Herreras. |
| 1910 | Deed, October 11, 1910, recorded in Volume 48, page 218. Andres Herreras, guardian of Eleazar Delfina Rodolfo, Andres and Arnoldo Herreras to Lee Goon and Lee Sum Man. |
| 1910 | Deed, October 13, 1910, recorded in Volume 50, page 39. Andres Herreras to Lee Goon and Lee Sum Man. |
| 1918 | Deed, June 13, 1918, recorded in Volume 69, page 44. Andres Herreras to Lee Goon and Lee Shan Man. |
| 1920 | Deed, March 16, 1920, recorded in Volume 74, page 587. Estate of Lee Shan Man to Long Shee (½ interest) and Lee Goon (½ interest). |

- 1920 Deed, November 8, 1920, recording in Volume 79, page 32. Lee Goon and Fong How and Long Shee to Lee Ho.
- 1941 Deed, February 28, 1941, recorded in Volume 236, page 414. Estate of Oh Shee to Lee Ho.
- 1949 Deed, June 17, 1949, recorded in Volume 176, page 537. Jacome's Department Stores, Inc., to Jerry Lee.
- 1956 Deed, October 30, 1956, recorded in Volume 1050, page 243. Estate of Rose Fong Lee to Jerry W. Lee.
- 1967 Deed, March 10, 1967, recorded in Volume 2947, page 498. Lee to Gee.

4. Builder: Unknown.

5. Alterations and additions: This structure began as a corner grocery store facing S. Meyer Avenue with an overhanging porch and two apartments at the rear. Between 1909 and 1914 three more apartments were added to the rear. Between 1914 and 1919 the store was enlarged to the north, and the adjoining dwelling unit to the west was enlarged and converted to a warehouse. Between 1919 and 1947, the store was again enlarged, this time toward the west (rear) and the corner section converted to dwellings. In 1948, the most recent remodeling took place, with the corner dwellings being reconverted to store quarters. At this time the facade of the store was modified to meet current commercial design standards.

B. Historic Persons and Events Connected with the Structure:

This grocery store was started in 1900 by Lee Lung Sing and passed down through three generations from father to son(daughter). The present owner is the great-granddaughter of Lee Lung Sing. Lee Lung Sing, his son, Lee Ho, and his grandson, Jerry Lee, were all born in China. The men came to America to earn a living, while their wives maintained residences in China. Lillian Gee, the present owner, was born in Arizona. Lee Lung Sing first rented the store from Andres Herreras, owner of the property on the corner of S. Meyer Avenue and W. 17th Street. In 1910, Lee Lung Sing was able to purchase the property, and it has remained in the family ever since. The periodic enlargements of the store demonstrate its neighborhood popularity. The 1948 remodeling established the market as the foremost grocery store in the area, and it remains today the largest market in the Barrio Libre vicinity.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION (See Significance, above, and Barrio Libre (Barrio Histórico)(HABS No. AZ-73) for site plan and historical background essay.)

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps, 1909, 1914, 1919, 1948.
Tract Books, Pioneer National Title Insurance Company (Recorder's records on Microfilm).
Tucson City Directories, 1897-1979.

Oral Interviews:

Suey and Lillian Gee, 600 S. Meyer Avenue
Eliazar Herreras, 1331 E. Waverly

Prepared by: Ann E Huston
Project Historian,
Maureen L. Gerhold
Assistant Project Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
September 1980

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service's National Architectural and Engineering Record (NAER) in cooperation with the Tucson Barrio Association, Inc.

Funds for the project were provided by the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office and the Arizona State Office of Economic Planning and Development. Under the direction of Robert Kapsch, Chief of NAER, John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, the project was completed during the summer of 1980 at the HABS field office in Tucson, Arizona, by Robert C. Giebner, Project Supervisor (Professor of Architecture, University of Arizona); William Joseph Graham, Project Foreman (University of Maryland); Ann E. Euston, Project Historian (California State University, Sacramento); Maureen L. Gerhold, Assistant Historian (Pennsylvania State University); Student Architects Scott Marshall Dolph (University of Arizona); Carol Jean Lemon (Washington State University); and Harrison Adam Sutphin (Virginia Tech); and Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Youth Employment Program Interns: Maria Arriola (Tucson High School); Ernest Cotta; Lupita Lopez (Tucson High School); and Anna Trinidad. Photographic records were made for HABS by David J. Kaminsky, Photographer, Roswell, New Mexico. Editing and final preparation of the documentation was carried out in 1981 in the HABS Washington Office by William Joseph Graham, Architect, and Lucy Pope Wheeler, Writer/Editor, of the HABS professional staff.

ADDENDUM TO
600 SOUTH MEYER AVENUE (COMMERCIAL)
(LEE LUNG SING MARKET)
Barrio Libre (Barrio Historico)
600 South Meyer Avenue
Tucson
Pima County
Arizona

HABS No. AZ-73-25

*HABS
ARIZ,
10-TULSO,
30/25-*

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013